

## ALTERNATIVE CARE REVIEW BOARD

The Division provides foster parents a grievance process when they do not agree with a case management decision made by the Family Support Team (FST) relating to a child placed in their home. (License denials and revocations are handled through the Fair Hearing process.) The purpose of the grievance process is to provide families an opportunity of a timely and impartial review when they disagree with child management decisions.

The family-centered out-of-home care policy has become the statewide policy and resource families are considered as integral members of the FST. As team members they participate in the case management decisions throughout the period that children remain in their care. Even though it is anticipated that the team will resolve most issues, a review process will remain in place.

Until August 30, 2001 the state maintained one state-wide Alternative Care Review Board (ACRB). Effective with that date, seven boards were established, one to represent each of the seven administrative areas. This was done so that boards could be convened more quickly, could more quickly resolve the case management dispute, and therefore more quickly eliminate any barrier to the child's permanency.

The Alternative Care Review Board is a board composed of seven members and two alternates. Members and alternates are selected as follows:

- Two alternative care parents, of which one shall be a licensed foster parent;
- Two division employees;
- Three members and two alternates from the following fields or professions:
- Community representative who has knowledge of the provision of alternative care services,
- School employee,
- Juvenile officer or professional employee of the juvenile office,
- Licensed child or family psychologist,
- Physician, nurse, or other qualified medical professional,
- Social worker with a private agency that provides services to families and/or children.